

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD EAGR MTN EEC

SUBJECT: EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS PROPOSAL

REF: EC BRUSSELS 809

1. ACCORDING TO EC COMMISSION AND PERMREP CONTACTS, DISCUSSION OF THE EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER BY THE PRINCIPALS IN THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 30 WAS QUITE GENERAL AND DID NOT GET DOWN TO A DETAILED PRODUCT-BY-PRODUCT EXAMINATION OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL. AS A RESULT, THE DEPUTIES WILL RESUME THEIR TECHNICAL EXAMINATION OF THE OFFER WHEN THEY MEET ON FEBRUARY 6.

2. OUR PERREP SOUCRES INDICATE THAT THE ORIGINAL TIMETABLE, CALLING FOR A DECISION BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING FEBRUARY 9-10, CANNOT NOW REALISTICALLY BE MET. ALTHOUGH THE COMMISSION IS PRESSING THE PERMREPS TO CONCLUDE THEIR DISCUSSIONS QUICKLY, AND IS CITING US INTENTIONS TO TABLE ITS OFFER ON MARCH 1 AS AN ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE, OUT UK PERMREP CONTACT SAID THAT THE CONSENSUS AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES IS THAT THE PROPOSAL WILL BE PRESENTED FOR DECISION BY THE COUNCIL OF MARCH 1-2, EVEN THOUGH THIS IMPLIES A TECHNICAL BREACH IN THE MARCH 1 MTN DEADLINE FOR THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFERS.

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3. ACCORDING TO OUR UK SOURCE IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT THERE WILL BE AN INTERIM REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF FEBRUARY 9-10 AND THAT THE PROPOSAL WILL GO BACK TO THE ARTICLE 113 UPPER-LEVEL GROUP ON FEBRUARY 20. OUR SOURCE NOTED THAT IN THE MEANTIME, DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE OFFER WOULD RESUME AT THE ARTICLE 113 DEPUTIES' MEETING ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6. OUR UK CONTACT THINKS TWO OR THREE MORE MEETINGS WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE THE FINAL PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL ON MARCH 1.

4. CONVERSATIONS WITH THE COMMISSION REVEAL THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET ABANDONED THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A DECISION FROM THE COUNCIL OF FEBRUARY 9-10. BUT THESE SOURCES ADMIT THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW THUS FAR AND THE REQUIRED CONSULTATIONS WITH GREECE, TURKEY AND THE ACPS HAVEN'T YET TAKEN PLACE, SO WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEIR HOPES FOR THE FEBRUARY 9-10 COUNCIL ARE FAIRLY FAINT.
MORRIS

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